

Open Air Witness 3 – From the Crimea to Eternity

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near”
Isaiah 55:6.

A Voice from the Crimea www.historyhome.co.uk/forpol/crimea/gowing/voiceov.htm

We are speaking to you again today about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is a statement that really summarises *why* we are speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ to you today.

‘Eternity, Eternity, know and seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near, for you cannot tell what tomorrow will bring forth, and it may be too late then.’

You may wonder who made that statement. You may think it was a minister of religion who made that statement. You may think it was a Bible-thumping, pulpit pounding, hell, fire and damnation hot Gospel preacher who made that statement.

It wasn't. It was a young man in his early 20s. He did not live to be 30.

This young man was a soldier who served in the Crimean War with the 7th Regiment of Foot, the Royal Fusiliers.

This young man was speaking to his best mate at the time. His best mate was another Royal Fusilier, aged about 20. As it happens, I was 20, when I sought the Lord and called upon Him. You can't be too young – or too old - to seek the Lord and call upon Him.

20 years old is the average age of today's British soldier by the way. It is always youth that faces ordeals like the Crimea then or Afghanistan today. See:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/9329265/What-is-life-really-like-for-the-soldier-of-2012.html.

This young man was speaking to his best mate on the night of September 19th 1854. That was the night before the battle of the River Alma. That was the first big battle of the Crimean War.

September 19th 1854 is 159 years ago. 159 years is a long time. 159 years is about two life times, even for folk who live a long time.

However, what that young soldier said is just as important now as it was when he spoke those words to his comrade-in-arms all those years ago.

What that young soldier said is worth repeating. This is the voice of a British soldier from the Crimean War.

You need to hear what that young soldier said. Everybody needs to hear what that young soldier said. This is what that young soldier from the Crimean War said.

‘Eternity, Eternity, know and seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near, for you cannot tell what tomorrow will bring forth, and it may be too late then.’

Eternity Somewhere

You need to hear what that young soldier from the Crimean War said because you and indeed all of us will spend eternity somewhere.

Tragically, that young soldier was killed in the battle of the River Alma. His mate found him on the battlefield and his mate said later.

He was now in the presence of his glorified Captain; he was as brave as a lion, but a faithful disciple.

That young soldier died young, yes, but he lives for eternity ***in the presence of his glorified Captain.*** That young soldier lives for eternity ***in the presence of his glorified Captain*** because the scripture says that Jesus is ***“the captain of their salvation”*** Hebrews 2:10.

You need to have the Lord Jesus Christ as the Captain of your salvation *today*. If the Lord Jesus Christ is not your Captain, you don't have salvation. It's that simple.

Seek the Lord for Salvation

That is why you need to do as that young soldier from the Crimean War said:

‘Know and seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near.’

That is exactly what the scripture says. That young soldier from the Crimean War knew his Bible.

It is the same Bible that I hold here. It has not gone out of print in 159 years and it never will. Most books don't last 50 years before they go out of print but this Book, the one I hold here, is ***“the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”*** 1 Peter 1:23. It will never go out of print so you need to hear what *this Book* says.

This Book says ***“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near”*** Isaiah 55:6. That's what that young soldier said. That's what **GOD** says!

If you mean business for the Lord Jesus Christ, if you want Him as the Captain of your salvation then the Lord Jesus Christ gives you a promise from scripture and the scripture says the Lord Jesus Christ keeps His promises. He has for me for 46 years!

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God...” 2 Corinthians 1:20. That's what the scripture says about the Lord's promises.

This is the promise from scripture of the Lord Jesus Christ to you if you want Him as the Captain of your salvation.

If you do what the Lord says, He'll keep His promise.

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:13.

We urge you to seek the Lord Jesus Christ *with all your heart* and make Him the Captain of your salvation today!

As the young soldier from the Crimean War said *‘you cannot tell what tomorrow will bring forth, and it may be too late then.’* Don't delay!